



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

August 24, 2007

**ORLANDO MAN SENTENCED TO 14 MONTHS FOR COMPUTER INTRUSIONS**

Orlando, Florida - U.S. District Judge Anne C. Conway today sentenced BENJAMIN PHILLIP HURWITZ, 28, of Orlando, Florida to 14 months' imprisonment and ordered him to pay \$112,399.41 in restitution to his former employer, Amber Diagnostics, for losses suffered as the result of computer intrusions committed by him. The sentence also calls for HURWITZ to serve three years on supervised release and pay a \$100 special assessment.

HURWITZ was charged in a one count Information on December 5, 2006 with intentionally causing damage to a protected computer. On January 9, 2007, HURWITZ pled guilty to that crime. According to court documents, HURWITZ started working for Amber Diagnostics as a part time computer/database technician in October 2005. Amber Diagnostics is an Orlando-based distributor and re-marketer/ re-manufacturer of pre-owned X-ray/ diagnostic medical equipment. After leaving his job at Amber Diagnostics in January 2006, HURWITZ used his computer skills to commit several intrusions into Amber Diagnostics' server and the server that maintained Amber

Diagnostics' website. These intrusions occurred on several separate occasions during February 2006, and they resulted in the loss of Amber Diagnostics' customer database and the temporary deletion of the company's website. As the result of HURWITZ's computer intrusions, Amber Diagnostics suffered a loss of over \$112,000.

These cases are part of an initiative that was begun by former Attorney General John Ashcroft, who on July 20, 2001 announced the creation of Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (CHIP) units in ten districts to respond to the grave threat and challenge presented by internet and high-tech crime. Since that announcement, the CHIP Program has been expanded to almost every district in the nation. The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida has designated four of its prosecutors as CHIP attorneys and has tasked them with coordinating the investigation and prosecution of computer hacking and intellectual property crimes in the district.

\_\_\_\_\_ This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service, and it was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg.